A historical black and white photograph showing a wooden bridge crossing a river. The bridge is made of wooden planks and has a simple wooden railing. In the background, there are several buildings, including a church with a steeple, and many bare trees, suggesting a winter or late autumn setting. The overall scene is a quiet, historical street view.

Battle of Mount Street Bridge

By Shane Carroll

What happened?



The Battle of Mount Street Bridge took place on the upper end of Northumberland Road and Mount Street Bridge.

It lasted from Easter Monday, April 24 to April 27th, 1916.

The rebels intended to stop British reinforcements from entering the centre of the city to quell the Easter Rising.

Let's find out how they got on.

Easter Monday, 23 April 1916

At 11 am, Commandant Éamon de Valera, Lieutenant Michael Malone, Second Commander James Grace and other young volunteers set out to take over Bolands Mill and the surrounding buildings of Mount Street Bridge and Northumberland Road on the day of the Rising.

The three commanders split into different groups, each commanding their own set of young volunteers. Their aim is to prevent British reinforcements from accessing the city.

In the afternoon, a group of 17 elderly British reserve volunteer soldiers from Beggars Bush Barracks accidentally stumble across their position. Four are killed and the rest scramble to safety in the barracks.



Lieutenant Michael Malone was born in 1888 in Dublin. Malone was a carpenter and artist, and had won several drawing/art awards from the technical schools.

Michael was a devout Catholic and a member of St. Patricks Confraternity in Ringsend.

He joined the Irish Volunteers in 1913 and was given the rank of Lieutenant in the cycling corps of Éamon de Valera's 3rd Battalion.

Malone was the officer in charge of the Volunteers positions during the battle of Mount Street Bridge. Together with Seamus Grace, Malone took over 25 Northumberland Road along with two young volunteers.

*Lieutenant Michael Malone
Commander Of Éamon de Valera's 3rd Battalion*



Beggars Bush Barracks

This is where the Georgius Rex troops were stationed. The barracks weren't that heavily defended, and had plenty of ammunition in them. If the rebels had known about this, they could have easily taken it over.



25 Northumberland Road

Michael Malone and James Grace were stationed here. The house was owned by Michael Cussen, a retired Customs and Excise Officer, who left with his family before the Rising. He was described by James Grace as “friendly”.



Clanwilliam House

George Reynolds and other volunteers occupied this house, which had a clear view of Mount Street bridge and straight down Northumberland Road. A maid opened the door to allow them in.

Tuesday 24 April, 1916

Fighting continued throughout the day, with snipers attempting unsuccessfully to dislodge the rebels from their stronghold.

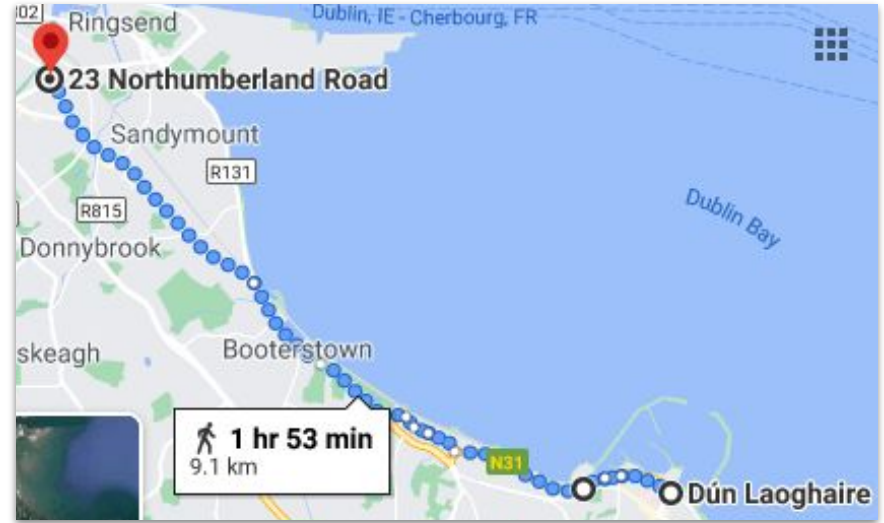
Thomas Walsh and his brother Jim, who had both been with Éamon de Valera in Bolands Mill, were sent to reinforce the volunteers at Clanwilliam House.

Wednesday Morning, 25 April, 1916

2,000 British reinforcements arrive by boat at Kingstown and start marching to Dublin Castle.

The troops are raw recruits from the Sherwood Foresters division who have never been in combat. Some don't even know how to use their weapons and are shown how at Kingstown after they land.

The troops march towards Mount Street, applauded along the way by local residents.



*Kingstown (Dun Laoghaire) to
Northumberland Road Lower.*

Wednesday afternoon, 26 April, 1916

As the troops approach Mount Street, they are fired on by the rebels at 25 Northumberland Road. They receive repeated fire from Clanwilliam House.

Their commander decides they must capture the bridge at any cost and sends wave after wave of soldiers to try and cross it.

This causes the biggest number of British casualties in the Easter Rising - more than 30 soldiers are killed and over 200 injured.

The fierce fighting continues.



Northumberland Road Higher to Mount Street Bridge.
This is the main area where the battle took place.

Wednesday night 26 April, 1916

The battle rages on, and new grenades and machine guns arrive to help the British Troops.

Eventually, they manage to capture 25 Northumberland Road. Michael Malone is killed, though James Grace manages to escape.

In Clanwilliam House, the rebels run out of ammunition. As they prepare to make their escape, George Reynolds stands up to take a final shot and is killed by a single bullet. The other volunteers climb out a basement window at the back and scatter through laneways.

In all, four rebels are killed during the Battle of Mount Street Bridge and one rebel captured. The battle is now over.

After the battle

The British soldiers round up the remaining volunteers and arrest them.

Fewer than 20 Irish Volunteers have succeeded in holding off a huge British force for more than nine hours.



The nine survivors of the Mount Street Bridge Battle. Seamus Grace is top left.

Timeline Of Events

Michael Malone leads 16 Volunteers to Mount Street Bridge to prevent British reinforcements from entering Dublin

11am - Mount Street Bridge

The British 59th North Midland Division receive orders from English HQ to stand ready for an immediate move

*Monday evening
24th April 1916*

*Easter Monday Morning
24th April*

Eoin MacNeill writes a letter to the paper declaring an uprising, and ordering the Volunteers to march outside the G.P.O. No one hears about this until the afternoon, as everyone is up in Fairyhouse at the races.

*Monday Afternoon
24th April 1916*

On Monday afternoon all was quiet on Northumberland road, until the rebels (who had by now set up barricades behind the windows of the buildings) saw British soldiers with rifles walking up towards Mount Street Bridge. The rebels immediately started shooting and knocked them to the ground. It turned out these soldiers were retired

Groups Involved in the Battle Of Mount Street Bridge

Irish Volunteers

Founded by Eoin McNeill to help help, Thomas Clarke Luby, John O'Mahony

Gorgeous Wrecks (Georgius Rex)

A group of 17 retired British Army volunteer reserves from Beggars Bush Barracks

Sherwood Foresters

2,000 new recruits to the British army who arrived by boat in Kingstown to provide reinforcements

The End

